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Message Text

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44
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

SS-20 NSC-10 DRC-01 /140 W
---------- 119890
R 131055Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6158
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, AF
SUBJECT: GOA ESTABLISHES ECONOMIC POLICY BOARD

1. RADIO AFGHANISTAN DECEMBER 11 ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A HIGH ECONOMIC COUNCIL BY THE GAO. ACCORDING TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT, THE COUNCIL HAS A MANDATE TO REVIEW AND ARRANGE THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES. ANNOUNCED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ARE DR. HUSSEIN SHARQ, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, CURRENT MINISTERS OF FINANCE, AGRICULTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS, DEPUTY MINISTERS OF COMMERCE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND PLANNING, AND ACTING PRESIDENT OF DA AFGHANISTAN BANK (CENTRAL BANK). THE COUNCIL WILL BE CHAIRED BY PRESIDENT DAOUD AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING ALI KHURRAM WILL SERVE AS COUNCIL SECRETARY. THE ANNOUNCEMENT MENTIONED THE COUNCIL WILL BE ASSISTED BY A YET TO BE FORMED BOARD OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS WHO WILL STUDY WAYS AND MEANS OF IMPROVING THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC POSITION.

2. COMMENT: FURTHER INFO ON NEW COUNCIL STILL TOO SCANT TO ALLOW
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FURTHER ANALYSIS. EMBASSY IS, HOWEVER, ENCOURAGED BY APPOINTMENT

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OF DEPMINPLANNING KHURRAM AS COUNCIL SECRETARY. KHURRAM HAS DISPLAYED ALL-TOO-RARE AWARENESS COUNTRY'S REAL ECONOMIC NEEDS AND POSSESSES EXECUTIVE SKILLS WHICH ARE CONSPICUOUS BY THEIR ABSENCE IN AFGHANISTAN. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL IS ALSO FIRST CONCRETE PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF DAOUD GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION COPE WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN NATIONAL, UNIFIED WAY.
ELIOT

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Message Attributes

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